

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 222131

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 USIA-15 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:PCBROWN:SAL

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R 100110Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UR, UN

SUBJECT: VISAS: TASS CORRESPONDENT TO UN

REF: MOSCOW 13458

1. DEPARTMENT FEELS IT UNWISE TO DENY VISA TO ROMANTSOV. SOVIETS MIGHT LEGITIMATELY CLAIM SUCH ACTION WAS IN VIOLATION OF UN HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT SINCE ROMANTSOV EXPLICITLY ASSIGNED THERE. DENIAL WOULD ALSO GIVE SOVIETS PRETEXT IN FUTURE FOR REFUSING VISA TO AMERICAN JOURNALIST NAMED TO REPLACE ONE OF PRESENT INCUMBENTS IN MOSCOW, ESPECIALLY SINCE ROMANTSOV IS REPLACING PIVOVAROV.

2. HOWEVER, SINCE SOVIETS SHOW NO SIGNS OF TAKING POSITIVE ACTION ON U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT APPLICATION, DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS ISSUANCE OF C-2 VISA TO ROMANTSOV WITH CLEAR EXPLANATION TO SOVIETS BOTH IN MOSCOW AND HERE THAT USIA'S
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PAGE 02 STATE 222131

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER IN NEW YORK WILL NOT RPT NOT ENDORSE

ANY APPLICATION BY ROMANTSOV FOR ACCREDITATION OUTSIDE THE UN. NYC POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL NOT ISSUE PRESS PASS TO ROMANTSOV WITHOUT SUCH ENDORSEMENT. SOVIETS WILL ALSO BE TOLD THAT ROMANTSOV WILL BE OBLIGED TO LIMIT HIS REPORTING TO UN ACTIVITIES AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW YORK. FYI: THIS PRACTICE IS PRESENTLY APPLIED WITH EFFECT TO EAST GERMAN AND CUBAN

JOURNALISTS IN NEW YORK. FINALLY, SOVIETS WOULD BE TOLD THAT ROMANTSOV'S STATUS COULD BE RECONSIDERED AFTER USNWR'S APPLICATION HAD RECEIVED FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON ABOVE APPROACH. ALSO REQUEST NAMES OF ANY SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO US WHO HOLD C-2 VISAS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE222131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PCBROWN:SAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731142/aaaabena.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 13458
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISAS: TASS CORRESPONDENT TO UN
TAGS: CVIS, UR, UN
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005